WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pensions cases of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu

*63. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS "be pleased to state:

■ (a) what is the number of pensions eases of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu that are pending at present with the Ministry for grant of pensions;

(b) since when these cases have been pending; and

(c) iby when these are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No case pertaining to applications submitted with-is the prescribed time limit is pending for dsposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arse.

Ran for revamping Jute Industry

*64. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very little progress hag been made under the plan for revamping the jute industry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therelor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NTWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Nexus between Afghan rebels and Punjab terrorists

*65. SHRl PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the media reports about the existence of a nexus between the Afghan rebels and the terrorists in Punjab are correct; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to check its impact on the smuggling, of

| arms to India?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS. (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Information available with the Government indicates that there has been contact between Sikh I extremists and Afghan rebels in th* UK and the USA. There are also indication* of contact between the two groups in the matter of purchase of arms. The reports in a section of the media about a letter from a prominent Mujahideen leader on this subject have, however, not been substantiated.

(b) Government is keeping a strict vigil on the bordr to check smuggling of arms and ammunitions by terrorists.

.Refugees from other countries in Intfto

*66. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what te the number of refugee* from other countries m India as on date alongwith the names of such countries;

(b) what are the details of steps taken by Government to repatriate them to their respective countries; and

(e) what amount has been spent on these refugees til] March 31, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The number of refugees from other countries in India, alongwith the names of such countries is given below:

No. of refugees from:

Sri Lanka (As on 1-4-89)	Tibet	Bangladesh (As on 9-4-89)	Burma (As on 12-4-89)
58,887	80,ooo (approx)	44,14	121

The figures for displaced persons from former West and East Pakistan who had migrated to India and were settled with Government assistance, or have settled on their own, are not included for the reason that they are taken to have merged in the mainstream of national life and are no longer considered refugees.

(b) As regards Sri Lankan refugees, in the first phase, it was proposed to send back all the camp and available non-camp refugees to Sri Lanka. From 24.12.87 to 31.3.89, 25,585 refugees have already gone back to Sri Lanka in 50 batches under the arrangements of Government of India.

The. Tibetan refugees have been given politically asylum in lndia and are free to live here as long as they like or til? an amicable settlement with China is reached.

Government of India have been in touch with the Bangladesh Government since the influx of refugees started in April, 1986 and have been trying to pursuade that Government to take necessary action to create conditions which would give the refugees the confidence to return;

Since the Burmese refugees have been allowe ' to stay in India due to the political furmoi) in Burma, they are expected to return as soon as conditions in that country stabilise o$_r$ they no longer fear for their safety in their own country.

(c) The amount spent on these refugees till March 31, 1989 is as follows: (Rupees in lakhs)

Sri Lanka	Tibet	Bangle desh	Burma	Total
1471.00	1386.00	1254.00	4.52	4115.52

Value Of US Dollar vis-a-vis Indian rupee

*67. SHRI JAGESH DESAI; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether k is a fact that the State Bank of India had recently advertised in US newspapers that the value of US dollar would be Rs. 26 by 1991-92;

(b) if so, on what basis the State Bank of India arrived at such a high rate of exchange, and

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Use of Army for maintaining law and order

*68. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Mintsier of HOME AFFATRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times and at what places the help of army was sought to maintain law and order during 1987, 1988 and 1989; and

(b) what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Army has been called out for maintenance of law and order on sixty three occasions during 1987, 1988 and 1989.

A statement containing the details of place$_s$ and the reasons for deployment of Army is attached.